

Nutrition Services in the WIC Program

Program Description: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federal U.S. Department of Agriculture prevention program which provides nutrition education, referrals to health and social services, and supplemental foods to categorically eligible individuals.

Eligibility: Pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children less than 5 years of age are categorically eligible to participate in the WIC Program. Income eligibility requirements for the WIC Program extend to 185% (adjusted each July). Individuals are adjunctively income eligible for WIC if any of the following conditions are met: fully eligible to receive benefits from Food Stamps, Medicaid, Kinship Care, Wisconsin Works (W-2), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; or is a member of a family which includes a W-2 recipient, a pregnant woman or an infant receiving Medicaid. Other eligibility criteria include Wisconsin residency and an identified nutrition risk factor.

Reference: WIC Program Consolidated Regulations, January 2001, USDA; Child Nutrition Act of 1966, Section 17; Code of Federal Regulations, 7 C.F.R., Part 246; Wisconsin WIC Program Operations Manual

Reference Summary: WIC applicants shall be assessed for need of nutrition services and when appropriate, refer them to such services.

Nutrition Services:

- **Medical Nutrition Therapy:** Not covered
 - MNT is not routinely provided through WIC. WIC agencies may pursue the development of contracts or agreements with providers in situations where a WIC Project R.D. may provide MNT via other programs (i.e. Prenatal Care Coordination, Birth to 3, Health Check, MCO, specialty clinics). The other programs would reimburse the WIC agency for the MNT provided by the WIC Nutritionist.
 - Other standard nutrition services provided by WIC include:
 1. Basic nutrition assessment, as part of eligibility determination;
 2. Nutrition education;
 3. The need for additional high risk nutrition services beyond which WIC is able to provide is determined as part of the assessment process; and
 4. Referral to a R.D. who provides MNT should be made, based on identified needs.
- **Infant formula:** Covered
 - Provides iron fortified infant formula.
Wisconsin WIC contract infant formulas: Similac with Iron, Isomil, Similac Lactose Free
Wisconsin WIC non-contract infant formulas (requires physician prescription and WIC Nutritionist approval): Alsoy, Enfamil with Iron, Follow-up, Follow-up Soy, Good Start, LactoFree, ProSobee

- **Special infant formula:** Covered
EnfaCare, Similac NeoSure, Similac PM 60/40, Nutramigen, Alimentum, Pregestimil, Portagen, EleCare, Enfamil AR, Neocate
- **Enteral nutrition products:** Covered
Ensure (all types), Boost, Sustacal, Kindercal, PediaSure, Pediatric E028
- **Vitamin/Mineral supplements:** Not covered
- **Tube-feeding supplies:** Not covered
- **Special feeding equipment:** Not covered
- **Breast pump:** Covered
 - May be provided by the local WIC Program to WIC participants based on need and inability to access a breast pump from other sources.

Note: The maximum monthly quantity allowed by federal regulations for infant formula, special infant formula, and enteral nutrition products is 403 fluid oz. concentrate (31 cans) or 8 pounds powdered formula. An additional 52 fluid oz. concentrate or 1 pound powder may be issued on an individual basis to children and women with special dietary needs provided the need is documented in the individual's certification file by the WIC nutritionist or nurse.

More information is available at:

Website: www.dhfs.state.wi.us/wic

Telephone: (608) 266-9824